

§ 3415.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Ad hoc reviewers* means experts or consultants qualified by training and experience in particular scientific or technical fields to render special expert advice, through written evaluations of grant applications, in accordance with the provisions of this part, on the scientific or technical merit of grant applications in those fields.

(b) *Administrator* means the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and/or the Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and any other officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture to whom the authority involved may be delegated.

(c) *Awarding official* means the Administrator and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority to issue or modify grant instruments has been delegated.

(d) *Biotechnology* means any technique that uses living organisms (or parts of organisms) to make or modify products, to improve plants or animals, or to develop microorganisms for specific use. The development of materials that mimic molecular structures or functions of living systems is included.

(e) *Budget period* means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

(f) *Department* means the Department of Agriculture.

(g) *Grant* means the award by the Administrator of funds to a grantee to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to establish, discover, elucidate, or confirm information or the underlying mechanisms relating to a research program area identified in program solicitation.

(h) *Grantee* means the entity designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to whom a grant is awarded under this part.

(i) *Peer review group* means an assembled group of experts or consultants qualified by training and experience in particular scientific or technical fields to give expert advice, in accordance with the provisions of this part, on the

scientific and technical merit of grant applications in those fields.

(j) *Principal investigator* means a single individual who is responsible for the scientific and technical direction of the project, as designated by the grantee in the grant application and approved by the Administrator.

(k) *Project* means the particular activity within the scope of one or more of the research program areas identified in the annual program solicitation that is supported by a grant under this part.

(l) *Project period* means the total time approved by the Administrator for conducting the proposed project as outlined in an approved grant application.

(m) *Research* means any systematic study directed toward new or fuller knowledge and understanding of the subject studied.

(n) *Methodology* means the project approach to be followed to carry out the project.

§ 3415.3 Eligibility requirements.

(a) Except where otherwise prohibited by law, any public or private research or educational institution or organization shall be eligible to apply for and to receive a grant award under this part, provided that the applicant qualifies as a responsible grantee under the criteria set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) To qualify as responsible, an applicant must meet the following standards as they relate to a particular project:

(1) Adequate financial resources for performance, the necessary experience, organizational and technical qualifications, and facilities, or a firm commitment, arrangement, or ability to obtain same (including by proposed sub-agreements);

(2) Ability to comply with the proposed or required completion schedule for the project;

(3) Satisfactory record of integrity, judgment, and performance, including, in particular, any prior performance under grants or contracts from the Federal government;